

## REMARKS

### Claim Election

Applicants again request that upon allowance of an independent claim, any withdrawn claims depending from such an allowed claim be rejoined and allowed.

### In the Specification

The changes suggested by the Examiner have been made. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

### Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Komiyami (JP 04-082066).

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome Komiyami. Particularly, claim 1 now requires a magnetic disk, and wherein neither the upper layer nor a layer of a same material as the upper layer is positioned along a full extent of an area between the lower layer and the disk. In sharp contrast, Komiyami's layer 12 or 13 encircle the inner layer 11, covering all external parts thereof.

Accordingly, it is apparent that Komiyami does not meet the requirements of claim 1, particularly as amended. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6 and 8-11 depend from claim 1, and are therefore also believed to be allowable.

### Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Creydt et al. (US46799681).

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome Creydt. Particularly, claim 1 now requires a magnetic disk. In sharp contrast, Creydt's ring is used with automotive transmissions. Nowhere does Creydt disclose a magnetic disk.

Accordingly, it is apparent that Creydt does not meet the requirements of claim 1, particularly as amended. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6 and 8-11 depend from claim 1, and are therefore also believed to be allowable.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this matter further, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 971-2573. For payment of any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2587 (Order No. HSJ9-2003-0158US1).

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Dominic M. Kotab/ Date: August 16, 2007  
Dominic M. Kotab  
Reg. No. 42,762

Zilka-Kotab, PC  
P.O. Box 721120  
San Jose, California 95172-1120  
Telephone: (408) 971-2573  
Facsimile: (408) 971-4660